Exports growth target

1174. SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have the target for growth in exports at sixteen per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the exports growth rate during the last three years; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to raise the exports growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) An export target of 16% has been fixed for the year 2004-05 in dollar terms to reach a level of US$ 73.4 billion. The target has been fixed, taking into account the export performance in recent years, international trading scenario and the views of the exporting community. As per the data provided by the DGCI&S, Kolkata, the export growth rate was (—1.6)%, 20.29% and 20.36% in 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively.

(c) Constant efforts are being made by the Government to promote exports. A Medium Term Export Strategy which is co-terminus with the Tenth Plan period (2002—07) was announced in January, 2002 with the objective of enhancing India's exports. A number of programmes/schemes have been launched which include schemes like Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure (ASIDE), establishing Agri Export Zones, Market Access Initiative, strengthening "Focus LAC" programme introducing "Focus Africa" Programme, etc. In the Exim Policy 2003-04 and Exim Facilitation Measures announced in January, 2004, besides, the focus on Service exports and policies to strengthen Special Economic Zones (SEZs), a new programme called "Focus CIS" has been introduced. Thus measures are being taken from time to time to increase India's exports.

National Institute of Design Research Centre, Bangalore

1175. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a National Institute of Design Research Centre in Bangalore;

(b) if so, whether land has been identified;